

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 211370

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS: CVIS, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: SIT-INS IN EMBASSY MOSCOW: TALK WITH VASEV

1. DURING LUNCH ON AUGUST 17, LUERS ASKED VASEV WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE SOVIET UNION HAD NOT A COMMON INTEREST WITH THE U.S. IN SEEING THE PENTACOSTALISTS AND ARMENIANS LEAVE THE EMBASSY QUIETLY. VASEV SAID HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE THE EMBASSY HAVE 20 OR 30 MORE. HE THEN, AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, BECAME MORE SERIOUS. LUERS TOLD HIM THAT YOU HAD ALREADY RECEIVED FROM KORNIYENKO STATEMENT THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE TRIED IF THEY HAD NOT VIOLATED ANY SOVIET LAWS AND THAT THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS WOULD BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION. LUERS ASKED IF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE MORE ASSURANCES IN ORDER TO HAVE THE SIT-INS LEAVE QUIETLY. LUERS SAID THAT IT SURELY MUST BE AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AS WELL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 211370

AS AN INCONVENIENCE FOR US TO HAVE THIS CONTINUE.

2. VASEV SAID, IN APPARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LUERS JUDGMENT, THAT THE ONLY LAWS THEY MIGHT HAVE VIOLATED RELATED TO TIME OF RESIDENCE IN MOSCOW. VASEV OFFERED THAT THESE LAWS HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED IN THE PAST AND THEY COULD IN THE FUTURE. LUERS ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE

CONCEIVABLE FOR A SOVIET OFFICIAL TO GIVE SOME ASSURANCE

OF THAT TYPE ORALLY TO THE SIT-INS. VASEV IMMEDIATELY
SAID THERE WAS NO CHANCE. HE THEN THOUGHT AGAIN AND SAID
HE UNDERSTOOD THE INTENT OF LUERS PRESENTATION AND WOULD,
ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, DETERMINE WHETHER SOVIET GOVERNMENT
COULD RESPOND IN ANY WAY TO THIS APPROACH. VANCE

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